

THEA2050 – Self-Staging
CRN: 10970

Section 5 = TR 11-12:15
HUM 312

Spring 2005

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Office Hours: M-F 10-11, M 1-3, TR 1-2, W 2-3

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Required Texts:

Brody, Marjorie, *Speaking Your Way to the Top*
[Course Packet] Self-Staging: Oral Communication in Daily Life

WebCT Help:

This class will meet 30-40% online via our WebCT homepage. We will use WebCT for taking quizzes, distributing self-staging handouts, posting discussion threads, and keeping track of grades. You may also find an updated syllabus, guidelines for all our projects, and other helpful resources on the homepage. You can access WebCT from the UWG home page, your UWG portal, or at <http://mywebct.westga.edu>.

For WebCT help, visit their website or call their helpline at 678-839-6248 on Monday - Friday from 8 AM – 5 PM.

Course Description: Self-Staging is an introduction to the performative basis of oral communications and self-presentation. The focus of this course is the variety of means by which we present self in personal and professional venues. Self-Staging is by nature interdisciplinary; therefore, presentation and performance with media such as (but not exclusive to) PowerPoint is required.

Learning Outcomes:

- To analyze the performative basis of identity in a range of settings and circumstances applicable to students' personal and professional goals.
- To apply performance theory in creating practical individual identities and exploring others' performance of identity.
- To develop the skills necessary to effectively communicate in a variety of situations and on a range of topics.
- To gain a basic understanding of the art of both formal and informal presentations.
- To develop leadership and collaborative skills necessary to communicating in groups.
- To become active listeners who critically evaluate what they hear.
- To effectively evaluate and develop methods of persuasion in presentation.
- To develop communication and presentation skills necessary to meet changing career demands in the contemporary world.

Student Responsibilities:

- Please be on time for class and plan to stay for the entire period.
- Be a courteous listener and present your ideas in a way that shows respect for your colleagues.
- Read the assigned material and be prepared to give your speech on the assigned day.
- Complete all WebCT assignments by the due date listed on your schedule.
- You are responsible for all the material presented in class. If you miss class, please make sure you get the notes and assignments.
- The syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class – make sure you note these changes.
- Keep copies of all your written work and file your returned assignments in a safe place.
- If you have scheduling conflicts with the schedule or have a documented absence that prevents you from completing an assignment, please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.
- If you have any special needs or if there is anything I can do to assist you in succeeding in this course, do not hesitate to let me know.

Attendance:

Since this is a largely performance-based class, much of the benefit you will gain from enrollment will be received in the classroom. Therefore, attendance is crucial to your success. **You may miss 2 “regular” classes without penalty. Any classes missed after these 2 will result in you losing half a letter grade on your final grade. The exceptions to this rule are days on which you are scheduled to speak, interview, or participate in class projects.** Do not miss one of these days without bringing documentation justifying your absence or you will not be able to make up class work. Work missed for excused absences will be made up at the instructor’s discretion.

Grading Breakdown:

Textual and Class-Based Evaluations:

Participation	20 points
WebCT Discussion Postings	20 points
Quizzes	60 points
Speech Critiques	20 points
Final	30 points

Student Self-Stagings:

CP1: Introductory Speech	10 points – [<i>Personal Identity – Self</i>]
CP 2&3: Skills Activities	20 points – [<i>Identity Construction Skills</i>]
Occasional Speech	30 points – [<i>Emotional Identity</i>]
Group Academic Presentation	30 points – [<i>Group & Academic Identity</i>]
Mock Job Interview	30 points – [<i>Professional Identity</i>]
Position Presentation	30 points – [<i>Professional & Academic Identity</i>]

Total: 300 points

Grading Components:

Participation: (20 points) This is a participation driven class, therefore much of your performance participation is spread through other grading areas. This portion of your grade will reflect your participation in class discussions, your willingness to actively participate in class projects, and your ability to listen critically and respond constructively to your classmates’ performances.

WebCT Discussion Postings: (20 points) At several points during the course of the semester, I will encourage you to post questions on a discussion board on our WebCT homepage. You may either ask questions, post your responses to other questions or both. I will keep track of these threads and grade you based on your participation as well as the constructive quality of your responses.

Quizzes: (6 @ 10 points each, 60 total) There will be six quizzes over the course of the semester drawn from the text reading and classroom lectures. These quizzes will be given via WebCT outside of class. More details will be provided as necessary.

Speech Critiques: (2 @ 10 points each, 20 total) For both your Occasional/ Commemorative and Position Presentations, you will be videotaped. Based on this video record, you are to produce a self-critique of your performance on WebCT due no later than one week following the performance.

Final: (30 points) There will be a final at the regularly scheduled exam time for this class. The final will be based on the quiz material as well as questions designed to draw the various threads of this course together in a practical and self-reflexive manner.

Self-Stagings:

Introductory Speech/Anecdote: (10 points) As a means of establishing trust and familiarity in the class, we will do a number of exercises designed to evaluate our own staging of personal identity. These exercises will culminate in a brief introductory speech or anecdote that will also serve as a baseline for the instructor's evaluation of your progress throughout the semester.

Skills Activities: (20 points) Continuing to build trust and rapport as a group, we will undergo at least two applied performance exercises designed to build upon class experiences and strengthen performance skills. These will be divided into physical and verbal communication skill activities and will be performed in class.

Occasional/Commemorative Speech: (30 points) A great deal of traditional self-staging occurs in formal or ritual settings, such as banquets, weddings, funerals, or award ceremonies. This exercise is designed to help students develop appropriately staged performances for these events, drawing on emotional language, the ability to move or inspire an audience, and the appropriate behavior for these settings.

Mock Job Interview: (30 points) As one of the practical applications of self-staging, you will undergo a mock job interview. Using resources discussed in class, you will locate and research an appropriate job description/listing, and you will prepare an appropriate resume and cover letter for that job. Then, during class periods, you will interview with the instructor (and possibly a panel of local employers.) You will be evaluated on your resume, cover letter, and your performance during the interview process.

Position Presentations: (30 points) Another essential self-staging skill is the ability to construct a position on a controversial issue, research that position, build a persuasive argument around it and defend that position against a counter-position. Position presentations will consist of a 5-7 minute presentation by each member of a pair, followed by a brief Q&A and rebuttal session. This speech must also be well-organized and researched, containing at least 5 outside sources cited within the speech. More details will be provided during class.

Group Academic Presentation: (30 points) To develop skills of working in a collaborative process, students will be grouped into teams of 5-7 individuals. They will choose a topic and make a 25-30 minute research-based presentation designed to inform the audience about a new process, product, or idea that has a direct impact on their fellow audience. Each presenter will be responsible for a portion of the program, and each will be required to cite at least 3-4 sources within their portion of the presentation. Visual aids and technology will be a key component of these presentations.

Grading Scale:

300-270 = A

269-240 = B

239-210 = C

209-180 = D

180 > F

Tentative Class Schedule – Subject to Change with Notice from Instructor:

Date	Title	Reading	Projects
11-Jan	Intro & Syllabus		
13-Jan	First Impressions		CP1 – Introductory Speeches
18-Jan	Theory of Self-Staging	CP 2-34	
20-Jan	Construction Response		Quiz 1
25-Jan	Physical Self-Staging	Brody 115-123	CP2 – Nonverbal Communication
27-Jan	Verbal Self-Staging	Brody 124-138	CP3 – Verbal Communication
1-Feb	Organizing Self-Stagings	Brody Chptrs 2-3	Quiz 2
3-Feb	Emotional Self-Staging	CP 74-85, Brody Chptr 6	
8-Feb	Occasional Speech		Groups A&B
10-Feb	Occasional Speech		Groups C&D
15-Feb	Resumes & Cover Letters	CP 141-194	Quiz 3
17-Feb	Staging Preparation		Job Description Due
22-Feb	Mock Job Interview		Groups D/C
24-Feb	Mock Job Interview		Groups C/B
			Groups B/A
1-Mar	Mock Job Interview		
3-Mar	Professional Development	CP 195-239	Quiz 4
8-Mar	Academic Self-Staging	CP 88-113	Quiz 5
10-Mar	Evidentiary Support		
15-Mar	Abstract Presentation		
17-Mar	Building a Position/Rebuttal		
22-Mar	SPRING BREAK		
24-Mar	SPRING BREAK		
29-Mar	Instructor Meetings		
31-Mar	Instructor Meetings		
5-Apr	Prof/Acad Stagings		Group A
7-Apr	Prof/Acad Stagings		Group B
12-Apr	Prof/Acad Stagings		Group C
14-Apr	Prof/Acad Stagings		Group D
19-Apr	Collaborative Process	CP 36-71, Brody Chptr 7	Quiz 6
21-Apr	Collaborative Process		
26-Apr	Collaborative Stagings		Groups D&C
28-Apr	Collaborative Stagings		Groups B&A
4-May	Final meets 11-1:00		